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A NEW METHOD OF BEEF PRODUCTION

How It Looks.

The scenic feature of this exhibit consists of a large accurately colored photographic cutout of three fat beef calves placed in front of the center section of the booth. Below the cutout are three circular placards containing text on the more important factors in the new method.

The portion of the center section above the cutout, and both side sections contain text giving the details of the new method of beef production.

What It Tells

The high lights of a study of the possibilities of various methods of handling and fattening beef calves are given in this exhibit. The experiment is one conducted at Sni-a-Bar Farms, Grain Valley, Mo., by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the University of Missouri.

Three lots of well-bred, native spring calves averaging 53 days old were handled as follows, beginning May 30, 1925: One lot ran on pasture with their dams until October 16 when they were divided into two lots and grain feeding to one lot was begun. A second lot was fed grain in a creep while following their mothers on a blue grass pasture. A third lot was fed a similar grain ration but separated from their mothers and allowed to nurse twice daily. After weaning, each lot of calves was full fed in dry lots.

The calves which had grain for about a month before weaning weighed 50 pounds more and were valued at 50¢ per 100 pounds more at weaning than the calves which had no grain. Creep-feeding on pasture proved the most satisfactory method of the three.

This system of beef production makes use of three excellent feeds, namely, pasture, grain and milk for pushing beef calves to make quality beef carcasses at about 8 to 10 months of age. It takes advantage of the well-known ability of young animals to make the most efficient use of feeds.

The System in Brief

Neither poor quality cattle nor slipshod methods of feeding and management may be expected to meet with success in such a system of beef production where the highest-paid demands of the market are to be met. Following are six outstanding features of the system:

- 1 - Use prolific beef-type cows of good milking quality.
- 2 - Use purebred beef-type bulls of outstanding merit.
- 3 - Provide ample winter feed and good summer pasturage for the breeding herd.
- 4 - Breed for early spring calves of uniform age.
- 5 - As soon as calves are old enough to eat grain provide a good mixture in a creep in pasture.
- 6 - Fully utilize milk, grain and pasture to bring calves to highest market condition at 8 to 10 months of age.

Experimental Data

A tabulation showing initial and final weights, feed consumed and costs, both on pasture and during the feeding period in dry lot, for the 12 calves which showed the best returns in this experiment is given below:

AN APPLICATION OF THIS METHOD ON A CORN BELT FARM - 1925

12 calves were placed on pasture with their dams, when 53 days old; kept there 174 days, then weaned and finished in dry lot for 84 days.

PERIOD ON PASTURE

(Nursing Dams and Fed Grain in Creep)

Average initial weight	- - - - -	-193 pounds
" final	" * - - - - -	-589 "
Gain on pasture	- - - - -	-396 pounds
Grain consumed in creep per head:		
Corn	- - - - -	4.6 bushels
Oats	- - - - -	3.5 "
Linseed meal	- - - - -	31 pounds
Cost of feed per head	- - - - -	\$7.09

PERIOD IN DRY LOT

Average initial weight	- - - - -	-589 pounds
" final	" - - - - -	-757 "
Gain in dry lot	- - - - -	-168 pounds
Feed consumed per 100 pounds gain:		
Shelled corn	- - - - -	493 pounds
Linseed meal	- - - - -	62 "
Alfalfa hay	- - - - -	165 "
Cost of feed per head	- - - - -	\$13.36

Where To Get Information

Further information may be obtained free of charge by writing to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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A Summary of the Exhibit.

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This exhibit gives the best methods of handling and fattening beef calves as determined by a feeding experiment conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Missouri.

Specifications.

Floor space required	-- width --	13 feet.
	depth --	8 feet.
Wall space required	-----	None
Shipping weight	-----	600 lbs.
Electrical requirements	-----	None.